

July 24, 1998

CAL No. RIII-96-008B

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley
President, Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Regulatory Services
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER NO. RIII-96-008B AND NRC
MANUAL CHAPTER 0350 RESTART ACTION PLAN FOR LASALLE COUNTY
STATION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

In December 1996, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) management decided to maintain both LaSalle County Station units, which had been shut down since September 1996, in an extended shutdown. The purpose of the extended shutdown was to address material condition, human performance, corrective action process, and engineering support and design deficiencies, identified by the NRC, your staff, and an Independent Safety Assessment. In March 1997, the NRC Region III and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staffs formed an NRC Oversight Panel for LaSalle County Station to ensure appropriate NRC focus and resources with regard to LaSalle performance improvement initiatives. On April 14, 1997, the NRC staff issued Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) No. RIII-96-008B regarding your commitments to develop and implement a Restart Plan to address performance concerns and to ensure appropriate NRC involvement and review prior to plant restart. On December 16, 1997, the NRC staff issued a Manual Chapter (MC) 0350 Restart Action Plan for LaSalle County Station to govern the conduct of NRC inspection and evaluation activities for plant restart and the associated CAL.

This letter is to inform you that the NRC staff has completed the inspection and evaluation activities outlined in the MC 0350 Restart Action Plan, including verification of your staff's completion of CAL commitments. Documentation of these activities is contained in the enclosed completed MC 0350 Restart Action Plan and in inspection reports and public meeting summaries issued and placed in the NRC Public Document Room during the extended shutdown. Accordingly, the NRC Oversight Panel has determined implementation of your performance improvement initiatives is sufficient to support restart of Unit 1. We recognize that your efforts to restart Unit 2 will predominantly focus on improving plant material condition. As you stated in our July 24, 1998, meeting, the same process for material condition improvement will be applied to Unit 2. This process, if successfully applied, should result in similar material condition improvement for Unit 2. The MC 0350 Restart Action Plan and CAL No. RIII-96-008B for LaSalle County Station are considered closed and the current NRC Oversight Panel will be disbanded once Unit 1 has restarted. ComEd remains responsible for ensuring that any other issues which may impact unit restart and safe plant operation are promptly identified and properly addressed.

The NRC staff intends to maintain enhanced oversight of LaSalle County Station activities after Unit 1 restart to ensure continued implementation of long term improvement initiatives and readiness of Unit 2 for restart. The specific form of that enhanced oversight will be determined and communicated to you after Unit 1 restart.

O. Kingsley

-2-

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Carl J. Paperiello
Acting Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-373; 50-374
License Nos.: NPF-11; NPF-18

Enclosure: MC 0350 Restart Action Plan

cc w/encl: M. Wallace, Senior Vice President
D. Helwig, Senior Vice President
G. Stanley, PWR Vice President
J. Perry, BWR Vice President
D. Farrar, Regulatory
Services Manager
I. Johnson, Licensing Director
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Commission